

TO: Public Safety Committee

VIA: Gary Jackson, City Manager

COPIES TO: City Council

FROM: Gary Cornett, Interim Assistant Fire and Rescue Chief

SUBJECT: Status of Bele Chere Safety and Security Measures

DATE: July 11, 2006

The Bele Chere Festival presents the City of Asheville with unique challenges. The safety and security of visitors as well as COA staff is the most significant of these challenges.

The Bele Chere Emergency Preparedness Team was created in 2002 as a means of identifying, planning for and mitigating the festival's safety and security concerns. The members of the team include key staff from all COA departments as well as the Buncombe County Health Center and the Public Health Regional Surveillance Team. The cooperative effort of this multi-agency/multi-jurisdictional focus on safety and security has resulted in enhanced measures designed specifically for Bele Chere.

Planning for Bele Chere is a year round process. The Bele Chere Emergency Operations Plan is the culmination of this process. The plan is a living document and is updated and revised as new challenges are identified.

The Bele Chere Emergency Operations Plan includes;

- Barricade Placement
- Communications
- Decontamination Guidelines and Decontamination Zone Maps
- Evacuation
- Food Security
- Lost and Missing Children
- Strom Warning
- Rooftop Security
- Road Race Safety
- Unified Command
- Fire and Police Emergency Operations Plans

A copy of the plan is available for your inspection.